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MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT : Security Considerations Involving
Codeword Materials Overseas

REFERENCE : [] dated 18 September 1970
to the Director of Security from the
Executive Director-Comptroller; same
Subject

1. This memorandum contains recommendations for your
approval in paragraph 10.

2. Your memorandum as cited in reference expresses concern resulting from the two incidents which occurred during the past year involving the disappearance of Codeword materials. A research inquiry of Codeword security practices has been conducted with particular emphasis on the handling of Codeword material in overseas stations. Consultations were held with officers throughout the various Directorates who exercise Codeword security responsibilities. A review of the security survey reports [] centers at stations/bases overseas revealed that the implementation of existing directives is generally quite good. There is some evidence of a lack of full understanding regarding certain minor procedures; however, no voids of a gross nature were discovered. Existing directives provide for periodic refresher indoctrination of cleared personnel, but the study revealed that this provision has been almost universally neglected. In short, the security survey coverage of codeword centers appears quite good and in turn revealed the observance of generally good security practices.

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8. In summary, the Office of Security review finds that the regulations established for the protection of Codeword material are adequate. The implementation of these regulations combined with personnel practices appear to offer the only potential weakness. In order to strengthen these deficiencies we are now briefing cleared professional security officers with detailed knowledge of compartmented security requirements and are establishing security re-indoctrination programs for cleared personnel overseas.

9. As a matter correlated to the overseas handling of Codeword material, it has been brought to our attention that recent handling of Codeword material at dispatch offices in Headquarters indicates need for improvement in this area as some pouches have been misrouted and improperly labeled.

10. It is recommended that the Security Officer, Directorate of Intelligence review current practices and procedures for handling Codeword materials by dispatch offices at Headquarters and make appropriate recommendations for improvements.

[Redacted]
[Redacted] J. Osborn
Director of Security

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